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ABSTRACT

A proposal is presented for an Honors Scholar Program at Moraine Valley Community College in response to the need to provide gifted students with the extra challenges they seek. After providing a rationale for the program, the membership of the steering committee and curriculum committees that would develop and guide the program is designated. Next, criteria for admittance to and retention in the honors program are set forth. Phase I of an Honors Scholar Associate Degree Program is outlined next, including information on incentives (e.g., scholarship funding, special recognition, and special counseling and advising); special low enrollment allowances; grading; scheduling considerations (e.g., block scheduling, morning class schedules, and evening honors courses); curriculum planning roles of the honors steering committee and honors curriculum committees; and the promotion of the program through personal contact (with high school counselors, department heads, and students), mailed advertisements, and counselor orientation. Suggestions for a second phase of the honors programs structured along interdisciplinary lines are presented next, followed by a job description for the director of the program. Finally, a sample program and schedule for an honors scholar are provided. (LAL)

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HONORS SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Moraine Valley Community College

Palos Hills, Illinois

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Dr. Margaret Lehner
Dean, Liberal Arts

JC 840 158

The Honors Scholar Program

Education has long addressed itself to the needs of the average student; and within the last 20 years, much effort has been directed toward the needs of the developmental student, especially in the community college setting. However, a largely ignored segment of the college population has been the gifted student. Of course, one readily admits that educators recognize these students. They stand out in any class and often give teaching that touch of extra-special joy.

Some universities have successfully operated honors programs over the years, but their numbers are small, and they are often plagued with budget cuts; however, few programs in the community college have been offered which address the needs of the honors students with the extra challenges they seek. Often they are left to seek these challenges on their own. Currently, however, there has been interest generated within the community college system to address this other group of special students since society cannot afford not to recognize excellence within its midst.

To this day, however, even though interest is high, few community colleges have established honors programs. Moraine Valley Community College's honors program would, therefore, become one of the vanguards in the community college movement to establish the honors program.

In addition, Moraine Valley Community College will gain a prestigious reputation within the community it serves as well as within the academic community for the academic excellence it nurtures. Such a program will give Moraine a high positive profile within the high school community and also will enhance our already excellent reputation with transfer universities who seek our students. The honors program will hopefully motivate current Moraine students to continue to seek excellence and to become a part of this exceptional group.

Simply stated, an honors scholar program at Moraine Valley Community College indicates our additional commitment to excellence, a commitment our society craves and seeks.

Dr. Margaret Lehner
Dean, Liberal Arts

Honors Scholar Program
Committees

Honors Steering Committee

Dr. Margaret Lehner	- Dean, Liberal Arts - chairperson
Mary Rita Freudenthal	- Department Head, Behavioral Science
Randy Southard	- Department Head, Communications/Literature
Dr. Phyllis Kozlowski	- Department Head, Humanities
Dr. Joseph Jioia	- Department Head, Social Science/Physical Education
Joseph Sukta	- Representative, Mathematics
Robert Juracka	- Representative, Science
Gerry Mikosz	- Representative, Counseling

Honors Curriculum Committee

Admission Requirements

Gerry Mikosz

Behavioral Science

Mary Rita Freudenthal - chairperson
Mary Sullivan
Joyce West

Communications and Literature

Randy Southard - chairperson
Patricia McKeague
Allan Monroe
Doris Spetch
Louann Tiernan

Humanities

Dr. Phyllis Kozlowski - chairperson
John Norton
Justin Synnestvedt

Mathematics

Joseph Sukta - chairperson
Jim Higgins
Dr. Paul Lawrisuk

Science

Robert Juracka - chairperson
Ed Devine
Tom McCague
Fen Taylor

Social Science

Dr. Joseph Jioia - chairperson
Joseph Hapak
Dr. Laurence Keogh
Dr. Michael King

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR HONORS SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The student must complete an application and meet any two of the following criteria:

1. Top 10% of high school graduating class in a college preparatory program
2. A cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 (on a 4 point scale) in a college preparatory program
3. An ACT composite score of 25
4. A combined score of at least 1100 on the SAT
5. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 (no D or X grades) for 12 or more hours of completed transfer-level (1.1) courses at Moraine Valley Community College
6. A score at or above the 90th percentile on at least two of the three assessment tests (Advanced Math, Composition, and Reading) administered by Moraine Valley Community College

CRITERIA FOR RETENTION IN THE HONORS SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Honors scholars must maintain a GPA of 3.50 and successfully complete two honors courses per year to remain in the program. In addition, six courses in the honors program (at least 18 hours) and a GPA of 3.50 are required to receive the honors scholar designation on the college diploma.

Phase I of Honors Scholar Associate Degree Program

Incentives

Scholarship funding for students enrolled in Honors Scholar Program
Honors Luncheons with Speakers (guest faculty members)
Recognition Banquet or Tea
Special Recognition at Graduation
Individual Faculty Advisors
Counselor assigned for honors group
Membership in Honors Council
Special local honor society/Phi Theta Kappa

Other Considerations

Since initial enrollments in honors courses are traditionally low, the college has made a commitment to allow these courses to "go" with less than the minimum enrollment in the beginning stages of the program, judgment to be made by the Dean, Liberal Arts with approval of Assistant Vice President of University Transfer and Developmental Education.

Grading

In keeping with university standards honors points will not be altered in computing the student's grade point average. Research indicates that honors students seem to earn the same grades they would have received if they were in regular classes. However, all honors courses will be designated by an H in the students' transcripts.

Honors scholars must maintain a GPA of 3.50 and successfully complete two honors courses per year to remain in the program. In addition, six courses (at least 18 hours) in the honors program and a GPA of 3.50 are needed to graduate as an honors scholar.

Scheduling

Block Scheduling will be set up for those honors students who want it.

Morning schedules will allow afternoon study, research, lab and elective time.

In addition, electives will be allowed in each semester to provide for sequencing of courses from introductory level to advanced level over the two-year period.

Evening honors courses will provide opportunity for evening students to participate in the program. Initial offering will be limited, however.

Phase I of Honors Scholar Associate Degree Program

Curriculum Planning

Honors Steering Committee

Steering Committee is composed of the Dean, Liberal Arts, the Department Heads from Behavioral Science, Communications and Literature, Humanities, and Social Science and Physical Education, plus one representative faculty member from Math and one from Science (asked by the Dean, Math and Science), and one counselor (in consultation with Executive Dean, Student Development).

This committee is responsible for coordinating activities, scheduling identification of honors courses, and will establish a five-year plan for introducing honors courses.

Honors Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committees are chaired by the Department Heads and the faculty representatives from Math and Science. These individuals will elicit participation from faculty in their areas to serve on the committee to plan curriculum.

Promotion of Program

Initial plans have been worked out with Marketing Services, and a multi-pronged approach has been launched. Promotion will be done by personal contact with high school counselors, department heads, and students; advertising will be done through the mailers; brochures will be distributed; the Glacier and local newspapers will be contacted, and counselors will be oriented.

Honors scholar program

Phase II

There is the possibility that Moraine Valley Community College could plan a second phase of an Honors Program which would consist of an alternate program. Often known as New College, the movement began at Oxford, England and has been instituted at a few east coast and west coast colleges and universities.

This program is to a large extent interdisciplinary and condensed in nature concentrating on the traditional branches of human knowledge: the Natural Sciences, the Social Sciences and the Humanities. There is the possibility that the college could schedule the courses so that a student could begin with the summer session, continue for the fall, spring, and following summer sessions. The student could therefore, graduate after 14 months with an associate degree. Then the student would be ready to transfer to a senior college or university in the fall semester.

This program would require at least two and one-half years of planning time.

Honors Scholar Program

Director of Program
Job Description

The Honors Scholar Program will have a faculty director who will report directly to the Dean, Liberal Arts. The job description will include:

Title: Director of Honors Scholar Program

Division: Liberal Arts

Supervisor: Dean, Liberal Arts

Function: Under the direct supervision of the Dean, Liberal Arts and in cooperation with the department heads is responsible for directing, developing, implementing, budgeting and staffing the honors scholar program within the parameters of established policy and available facilities and resources.

Example of Duties:

1. Chair Honors Committee.
2. Refine goals and objectives of the honors program.
3. Review syllabi for honors courses.
4. Meet with involved faculty to discuss goals and coordinate activities.
5. Plan, prepare and submit for approval a schedule of honors courses for each semester. Works with department heads in implementation of the schedule including faculty assignments.
6. Plan, prepare and submit a budget for the honors program to the Dean, Liberal Arts for approval. Works with department heads in planning and implementation of the budget.
7. Assist Marketing in the development of program brochures.
8. Coordinate recruitment efforts with Admissions and College Activities to recruit students from the district's high schools, from current MVCC students, from returning adult students and from other appropriate sources.
9. Prepare a manual for honors students explaining the program and the honors courses.
10. Coordinate counseling services for honors students.
11. Coordinate efforts with the Research Department to study the program participants' perceptions of the honors program, their needs, their success rates at MVCC, and their performances at senior institutions.
12. Begin a newsletter to communicate with the instructors in the district who teach honors classes at the local high schools and to keep students enrolled in Moraine's program informed about upcoming courses and events.

Director of Program

13. Coordinate activities with Phi Theta Kappa.

14. Plan orientation tea at the start of the semester.

15. Organize periodic gatherings of students and faculty to share projects, present papers, discuss current issues, and maintain motivation.

16. Plan an end-of-the-academic-year luncheon to emphasize the positive achievements of both students and faculty.

17. Arrange for guest speakers for scheduled activities.

18. Maintain contact with program directors at other community colleges to analyze their strengths, to incorporate their good ideas into Moraine's program, and to share Moraine's achievements with them.

19. Attend conferences and conventions related to honors courses and programs as appropriate.

20. Plan and develop honors scholar related projects as assigned.

Compensation will be released time at the rate of 6 hours for Spring Semester '84 for start-up time (see initial tasks indicated in job description); thereafter released time will be 3 hours each fall and spring semester and 2 hours each summer.

Honors Scholars' Program Phase I

Sample Block Program
&
Schedule

1st YEAR

1st SEM		2nd SEM	
COM 101	3	COM 102	3
HIS 101	3	HIS 102	3
MTH 140	5	Elective	3
BIO 111 (180)	4	BIO 112 (181)	4
Elective	3	Elective	3
	17-18		16

2nd YEAR

1st SEM		2nd SEM	
COM 103	3	PHI 101	3
HUM 101	3	HUM 102	3
PSY 101	3	SOC 101	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
	15		15

There is a need to provide electives to provide students with the ability to satisfy prerequisites for various majors to be pursued at the junior and senior level.

FACULTY SCHEDULE

MORAINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUBDIVISION Liberal Arts

NAME Honors Scholar SEMESTER Fall, 1984 LOAD 18

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 A.M.						
8:00 A.M.	BIO 111	COM 101	BIO 111	COM 101		
9:00 A.M.	↓	↓ ↑	↓	↓ ↑		
10:00 A.M.		HIS 101		HIS 101		
11:00 A.M.	MTH 140		MTH 140		MTH 140	
12:00 Noon	↓		↓		↓	
1:00 P.M.						
2:00 P.M.						
3:00 P.M.						
4:00 P.M.						
5:00 P.M.						
6:00 P.M.						
7:00 P.M.						
8:00 P.M.						
9:00 P.M.						
10:00 P.M.						

Electives to be chosen in addition to the above courses.
3 credit hours

I have reviewed my schedule as shown above and it meets with my approval.

Signature _____ Date _____

FACULTY SCHEDULE

MORAINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUBDIVISION Liberal Arts

NAME Honors Scholar SEMESTER Spring 1985 LOAD 16

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 A.M.						
8:00 A.M.	BIO 112	COM 102	BIO 112	COM 102		
9:00 A.M.						
10:00 A.M.		HIS 102		HIS 102		
11:00 A.M.						
12:00 Noon						
1:00 P.M.						
2:00 P.M.						
3:00 P.M.						
4:00 P.M.						
5:00 P.M.						
6:00 P.M.						
7:00 P.M.						
8:00 P.M.						
9:00 P.M.						
10:00 P.M.						

6 credits of Electives to be chosen in addition to the above courses.

I have reviewed my schedule as shown above and it meets with my approval.

Signature _____ Date _____

FACULTY SCHEDULE

MORAINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUBDIVISION Liberal Arts

NAME Honors Scholar SEMESTER Fall 1985 LOAD 15

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 A.M.						
8:00 A.M.	HUM 101	COM 103	HUM 101	COM 103	HUM 101	
9:00 A.M.	PSY 101		PSY 101		PSY 101	
10:00 A.M.						
11:00 A.M.						
12:00 Noon						
1:00 P.M.						
2:00 P.M.						
3:00 P.M.						
4:00 P.M.						
5:00 P.M.						
6:00 P.M.						
7:00 P.M.						
8:00 P.M.						
9:00 P.M.						
10:00 P.M.						

6 credit hours of Electives to be chosen in addition to the above courses.

I have reviewed my schedule as shown above and it meets with my approval.

Signature _____ Date _____

FACULTY SCHEDULE

MORAINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUBDIVISION Liberal Arts

NAME Honors Scholar SEMESTER Spring 1986 LOAD 15

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 A.M.						
8:00 A.M.	HUM 102	PHI 101	HUM 102	PHI 101	HUM 102	
9:00 A.M.	SOC 101		SOC 101		SOC 101	
10:00 A.M.						
11:00 A.M.						
12:00 Noon						
1:00 P.M.						
2:00 P.M.						
3:00 P.M.						
4:00 P.M.						
5:00 P.M.						
6:00 P.M.						
7:00 P.M.						
8:00 P.M.						
9:00 P.M.						
10:00 P.M.						

6 credit hours of Electives to be chosen in addition to the above courses.

I have reviewed my schedule as shown above and it meets with my approval.

Signature _____ Date _____

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